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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/788,443	03/01/2004	Hendrik Theodorus van der Meer	029150-103.001	9988

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EXAMINER

PHAM, THIERRY L

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2625

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	12/28/2006	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/788,443	VAN DER MEER ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Thierry L. Pham	2625	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 October 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-31 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-31 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>10/13/06</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

- This action is responsive to the following communication: an Amendment filed on 10/13/06.
- Claims 1-31 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-5, 7, 9, 12-13, 19-23, 26-28, 30-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Krist et al (US 5615015) in view of Hadewe (EP 628357A1).

Regarding claim 1, Krist discloses a method for generating and finishing documents comprising:

converting a first data file in a first format, which data file describes the content of at least one document, into a second data file in a second format (converting from first format to second format, col. 11, lines 1-10), comprising image defining instructions and other instructions for finishing said at least one document (col. 10, lines 64-67; col. 11, lines 1-8 & 16-30).

However, Krist does not clearly disclose processing said second data file into a processed second data file, whereby said image defining instructions are processed into driving instructions for generating at least one document, and whereby said other instructions for finishing said at least one document are processed into driving instructions for finishing said at least one document, thereafter driving equipment for generating and finishing said at least one document in accordance with said driving instructions; generating and finishing at least one document by means of said equipment in accordance with said driving instructions.

Hadewe, in the same field of endeavor for a printing system with plurality of instructions to process a document, teaches processing said second data file into a processed second data file, wherein said image defining instructions are processed into

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driving instructions for generating at least one document, and wherein said other instructions for finishing said at least one document are processed into driving instructions (col. 3, lines 16-33) for finishing said at least one document, thereafter driving equipment for generating and finishing said at least one document in accordance with said driving instructions; generating and finishing at least one document by means of said equipment in accordance with said driving instructions (col. 3, lines 16-33; col. 6, lines 46-58, and col. 7, lines 1-2).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Krist's printing system to include finishing instructions as taught by Hadewe in order to provide an efficient method to indicate how a document to be mailed is assembled.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Krist with Hadewe to obtain the invention as specified in claim 1.

Regarding claim 2, Hadewe further teaches a method according to claim 1, wherein said image defining instructions are formed by instructions for driving a printing apparatus (col. 7, lines 28-37).

Regarding claim 3, Hadewe further teaches a method according to claim 1, wherein said driving instructions for generating documents comprise instructions for printing documents and are fed to a printing apparatus, and wherein said driving instructions for finishing documents comprise instructions for finishing physical documents printed by said printing apparatus and are fed, separately from said driving instructions for generating documents, to a system for finishing physical documents, and wherein documents are printed by said printing apparatus in accordance with said instructions for finishing physical documents (col. 6, lines 46-58).

Regarding claim 4, Hadewe further teaches a method according to claim 3, wherein said documents are delivered from said printing apparatus directly to said system for finishing physical documents (col. 7, lines 28-39 and fig. 1).

Regarding claim 5, Hadewe further teaches a method according to claim 3, wherein said documents are fed one by one from said printing apparatus to said system for finishing physical documents (col. 7, lines 28-39 and fig. 1).

Regarding claim 7, Krist further teaches a method according to claim 1, wherein, in processing said second data file, associated finishing instructions are generated (col. 3, lines 56-67 and col. 4, lines 1-10).

Regarding claim 9, Hadewe further teaches a method according to claim 7, wherein the generation of associated finishing instructions comprises selecting equipment for generating and finishing documents (col. 8, lines 47-58).

Regarding claim 12, Hadewe further teaches a method according to claim 1, wherein the processing of said second data file comprises verifying at least a portion of said driving instructions (col. 11, lines 15-23).

Regarding claim 13, Hadewe further teaches a method according to claim 1, wherein the processing of said second data file comprises processing at least a portion of said image defining instructions (col. 11, lines 15-23). Verifying the instruction is considered a form of processing.

Regarding claim 19, Krist further teaches a method according to claim 1, wherein the processing of said image defining instructions into said execute format comprises converting image defining instructions in a first printing apparatus language into image defining instructions in a second printing apparatus language (col. 3, lines 56-67, col. 4, lines 1-10).

Regarding claim 20, Krist further teaches a method according to claim 1, wherein said image defining instructions comprise at least two separately executable sets of image

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defining instructions each comprising image defining instructions for printing an individual page (col. 3, lines 56-67 and col. 4, lines 1-10).

Regarding claim 21, Krist further teaches a method according to claim 1, wherein a plurality of documents including electronic and physical documents are generated. Fig. 1 of Krist shows that document is submitted to printer. But as shown in fig. 10, controller can transmit the document to print server and fax server to generate electronic document as well.

Regarding claim 22, which recite limitations that are similar and in the same scope of invention as to those in claim 1 above; therefore, claim 22 is rejected for the same rejection rationale/basis as described in claim 1.

Regarding claim 23, Krist further teaches system according to claim 22, wherein said data processor structure comprises a first data processor station and a second data processor station, which data processor stations are mutually coupled for transferring data from said first data processor station to said second data processor station, wherein said first data processor station is arranged for providing a first data file in at least one first format, for describing the content of documents; for converting said first data file in said first format into said second data file in said second format; and for transferring said second data file to said second data processor station; wherein said second data processor station is arranged for said processing of said second data file into a processed second data file and is operatively connected with said equipment for generating and finishing documents for driving said equipment (fig. 2).

Regarding claim 26, which recite limitations that are similar and in the same scope of invention as to those in claim 3 above; therefore, claim 26 is rejected for the same rejection rationale/basis as described in claim 3.

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Regarding claims 27-28, Krist further teaches a system, wherein said printing apparatus and said processing equipment each have a control unit (fig. 5) of their own, and wherein said each control units each have a port of their own for communication with an external data processor (fig. 5). In addition, it is well known that each printer or processing equipment is having its own CPU.

Regarding claim 30, Krist further teaches a system according to claim 22, wherein said equipment for generating and finishing document comprises equipment for generating and finishing physical documents (fig. 1 shows a system for processing and completing digital images into physical documents) and equipment for generating and finishing electronic documents.

Regarding claim 31: Claim 31 recite limitations that are similar and in the same scope of invention as to those in claim 1 except computer readable memory for storing computer programs. All computers/printers have some type of computer readable medium for storing computer programs, hence claim 31 would be rejected using the same rationale as in claim 1 above.

Claims 6 & 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Krist and Hadewe as applied to claims 1 & 22 above (respectively), and further in view of Salgado (US 5777882).

Regarding claim 6, combinations of Krist and Hadewe do not teach a method, wherein the supply of driving instructions to said printing apparatus is carried out in accordance with receiving capacity representing signals coming from said system for finishing physical documents.

Salgado, in the same field of endeavor for printing and handling document, teaches a method for using different capacity output bins based on the size of the job. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person skilled in the art, at the time of the invention to use Salgado's invention to properly handle different size printing jobs.

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Regarding claim 29, which recite limitations that are similar and in the same scope of invention as to those in claim 6 above; therefore, claim 29 is rejected for the same rejection rationale/basis as described in claim 6.

Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Krist and Hadewe as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Girard (US 6393135).

Regarding claim 8, combinations of Krist and Hadewe do not teach and/or suggest a method, wherein the generation of associated finishing instructions comprises determining franking values.

Girard, in the same field of endeavor for printing and handling mail pieces, teaches a well-known method for determining franking values (postage value, col. 7, lines 41-54).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Krist and Hadewe to include a method for determining franking values as taught by Girard in order to provide an efficient method to determine an exact amount of postage value for mail pieces.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Krist and Hadewe with Girard to obtain the invention as specified in claim 8.

Claims 10-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Krist and Hadewe as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Gombault et al (US 5283752).

Regarding claim 10, combinations of Krist and Hadewe do not teach and/or suggest a method, wherein the generation of associated finishing instructions comprises determining imprints on envelopes in accordance with associated image defining instructions for printing documents.

Gombault, in the same field of endeavor for printing and handling mail pieces, teaches a well-known method determining imprints on envelopes in accordance with

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associated image defining instructions for printing documents (preparing an item to be mailed including an address printer, col. 2, lines 1-14).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Krist and Hadewe to include a method for determining imprints on envelopes in accordance with associated image defining instructions for printing documents as taught by Gombault in order to provide an efficient method to print an address on an envelope.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Krist and Hadewe with Gombault to obtain the invention as specified in claim 10.

Regarding claim 11, Gombault further teaches a method, wherein the generation of associated finishing instructions comprises compiling transmittal data concerning a group of documents (col. 4, lines 31-48). Documents to be signed are considered the group of documents.

Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Krist and Hadewe as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Taylor (US 5245545).

Regarding claim 14, combinations of Krist and Hadewe fail to teach and/or suggest a method, wherein the processing of at least a portion of said image defining instruction comprises reading at least portions of said image defining instructions and sorting sets of said image defining instructions each associated with a particular document, in accordance with said portions read.

Taylor, in the same field of endeavor for printing and handling mail pieces, teaches a method for reading at least portions of said image defining instructions and sorting sets of said image defining instructions each associated with a particular document, in accordance with said portions read (sorting the mail piece according to zip code, col. 3, lines 13-36).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Krist and Hadewe to include teaches a method for reading at least portions of said image defining instructions and sorting sets of said image

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defining instructions each associated with a particular document, in accordance with said portions read as taught by Taylor in order to provide an efficient method for delivery the mail pieces by sorting the mail piece according to zip code.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Krist and Hadewe with Taylor to obtain the invention as specified in claim 14.

Claims 15-18, 24-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Krist and Hadewe as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Maritzen et al (US 5899990).

Regarding claim 15, combinations of Krist and Hadewe fails to teach and/or suggest a method, wherein said instructions for processing said second data file into said processed second data file are inputted a universal interactive client server operating interface.

Miritzen, in the same field of endeavor for obtaining data, manipulating the data and relays the data, teaches a method for processing said second data file into said processed second data file are inputted a universal interactive client server operating interface (universal application programmer interface, col. 3, lines 5-8, and 38-42). In case of Hadewe and Krist, image data and finishing data are obtained, manipulated by converting formats and sent to finisher for processing. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person skilled in the art, at the time of invention to combine the universal API of Maritzen with the printing and finishing machines of Hadewe and Krist to reduce the amount of coding and development time.

Regarding claim 16, Maritzen further teaches a method according to claim 15, wherein said interface comprises web browser software (col. 5, lines 1-6).

Regarding claim 17, Krist further teaches a method according to claim 15, wherein said second data file, at least prior to the processing, is free of finishing instructions (col. 3, lines 56-67 and col. 4, lines 1-10).

Regarding claim 18, Krist further teaches a method according to claim 15, wherein said processed second data file comprises: a first subfile containing image defining instructions, a second subfile containing associated finishing instructions and reference instructions which couple said image defining instructions to associated ones of said finishing instructions (col. 3, lines 56-67 and col. 4, lines 1-10).

Regarding claims 24-25, which recite limitations that are similar and in the same scope of invention as to those in claims 15-16 above; therefore, claims 24-25 are rejected for the same rejection rationale/basis as described in claims 15-16.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 10/13/06 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

- Regarding claims 1, 22, and 31, the applicants argued the cited prior arts of record fail to teach and/or suggest processing a second data file in a second format into a processed second data file where image defining instructions are processed into driving instructions and other instructions for finishing the document are processed into driving instructions. In response, Hadewe teaches processing a second data file in a second format into a processed second data file where image defining instructions are processed into driving instructions (col. 3, lines 16-33) and other instructions for finishing the document are processed into driving instructions (col. 3, lines 16-33; col. 6, lines 46-58, and col. 7, lines 1-2). For example, a mail processing system as taught by Hadewe, teaches a method for converting a document data into driving instruction codes for controlling the processing stations (col. 6, lines 46-58 and col. 8, lines 5-10, col. 8, lines 48-52).

Any rejection not addressed above (e.g. claim 31 rejected under USC 101) have been withdrawn.

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Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

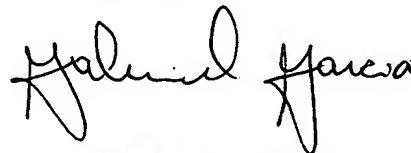
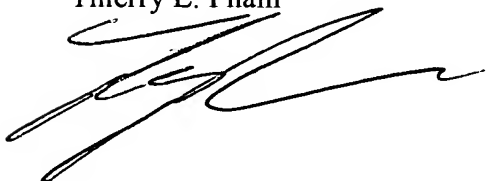
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thierry L. Pham whose telephone number is (571) 272-7439. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (9:30 AM - 6:00 PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David K. Moore can be reached on (571)272-7437. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Thierry L. Pham



GABRIEL I. GARCIA
PRIMARY EXAMINER